

Avoyelles Parish



“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”

Healthy People 2010

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Avoyelles	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	25.9%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	32.9%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	8.1%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,345	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	91.6%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	7.6%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	9.6	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	78.9%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	76.7%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	10.6%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	20.4%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	38.6	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	325.5	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	137.4	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	0.0	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	365.5	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	300.6	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	64.9	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	57.7	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	48.1	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	**	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	10.5	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	2.3	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 6	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	28.2%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI ≥ 30 (adults 20+)	27.1%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	69.0%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	86.5%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	67.5%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United States, 2003". NA = Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EM S/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

History^{1, 2}

Established as a parish on March 31, 1807, this parish takes its name from the Avoyelles Indians, the original inhabitants of the area. Many Indian relics from prehistoric times may be found. The French and Spanish settlers came up the Red River in the mid-18th century. During the Civil War, fighting took place at Fort De Russy, a confederate fortification three miles northeast of Marksville. Other skirmishes took place at Mansura and Simmesport.



Avoyelles Parish, the .Cajun Crossroads of Louisiana, is rich in French/Acadian traditions and rich in Indian culture, preserved by the Marksville Prehistoric Indian Park and Museum and the Tunica-Biloxi Indian Center and Museum, home of the famed Tunica-Biloxi Treasures Collection. Over 20,000 acres of lakes, bayous and rivers provide abundant fish and game. There are three state wildlife management areas and two national wildlife refuges. Some historic properties are available for specially arranged group tours. The Cochon-de-Lait Festival is held each May in Mansura, the Louisiana Corn Festival is held each June in Bunkie, and Cottonport has an exciting Christmas Parade each December.

Parish Seat³ Marksville

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Marksville

Parish Population⁴

2000.....	41,481
2003 (estimate)	41,791
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	77.4%
African-American	20.3%
Some other race.....	2.3%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	2.5%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	8.2%
5-14	16.8%
15-17	5.1%
18-19	3.0%
20-24	6.5%
25-64	52.7%
65 & over	7.7%

Geography and Statistics⁵

Average elevation	82ft.
Land area in square miles	832
Water area in square miles	33.2

Climate

Average temperatures

Annual	67°
January	57°
July	90°
Annual average rainfall	61.9 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁶

Avoyelles Parish

Civilian.....	15,912
Employed	14,559
Unemployed.....	1,353
Unemployment.....	8.5%

Louisiana

Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate	4.8%

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

Louisiana College, Pineville

Louisiana State University and A&M College, Alexandria

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information
<<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. Louisiana Department of Economic Development, 1999. Louisiana Overview. Keyword: overview,
www.lded.state.la.us.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary
<http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls>.